

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/023,037

Examiner

Charles Chow

Applicant(s)

PLUSH ET AL.

Art Unit

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: United Kingdom 9710730.4 05/23/1997.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Detailed Action

Drawings

1. The reference numbers in Fig. 4-5 are missing for some of the steps. A correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 27-30 are allowable over the prior art of record, the prior art fails to teach singly, particularly, or in combination, the subject matter, for the method of generating billing data for subscribers in a telecommunication system by administrating a shared usage plan comprising registering a plurality of groups of subscribers, each of said group comprising a plurality of subscribers for which a single shared usage plan is held, the assigning a shared usage allocation of an original magnitude to each of said groups that is available for usage by the group at a beginning of a predetermined period, wherein the original magnitude of each shared usage plane is predetermined in accordance with the shared usage plan by a group, maintaining a record for each group of subscribers, wherein the record includes subscriber identification data for each subscriber and the shared usage allocation assigned to the group, determining if a subscriber of one of said groups used a telecommunication service, accessing upon determining that the subscriber uses the telecommunication service, the record for group of which the subscriber is a member, analyzing call data so as to apply one of a number of difference predetermined call charging tariffs to a call made by the subscriber, in dependence of the group of which the subscriber is a member, in order to generate charging data for said call and to allow a common charging tariff to be applied for each subscriber in a group for which a combined subscription is held when said shared usage

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allocation has been exhausted, in claim 27, as shown in applicant's table 1, Fig. 4, and pages 12-14 of the specification, the shared, original magnitude bundle, 60 minutes-5000 minutes in table 1, and the analyzing call data type (step 50, Fig. 4), if the bundle record indicates that all the bundle time originally available at the start of the billing period has been used already, thereby, calculating the charge for the entire call (specification page 12-14), the step under step 52, the any bundle time remaining, the subtract call time from bundle record, the step 62, subtract, decrement, remaining bundle time from bundle record. The dependent claims are also allowable due to their dependency upon the independent claims.

The closest patent to Baum et al. (US 4,979,207) teaches billing system for each employee of each multi-line customer, having call detail records of the cellular telephone calls made by users to produce billing report based on the key identification numbers associated with the customer detail pool files 112 (abstract, Fig. 1-5; col.1, lines 9-31, col. 2, lines 24-43, col. 2, lines 56-68, col. 2, line 56 to col. 3, line 17, col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 28). Baum fails to teach the assigning a shared usage allocation of an original magnitude to each of the groups that is available for usage by the group at a beginning of a predetermined period, wherein the original magnitude of each usage plan is predetermined in accordance with the usage plan held by a group.

Other prior arts in below has been considered, but they fail to teach the above claimed features.

Jagadish et al. (US 6,173,046 B1) teaches the customer group billing and each customer profile which includes parameter indicating the customer is a member of the group. Each customer profile also includes a discount parameter indicating that each member of the group

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is to receive 1% discount once the total group usage reaches \$1000. Jagadish et al. fails to teach the assigning a shared usage allocation of an original magnitude to each of the groups that is available for usage by the group at a beginning of a predetermined period, the analyzing call data to allow a common tariff is applied for each subscriber in a group which a combined subscription is held when the shared usage allocation has been exhausted.

Janhonen (WO 96/20,570) teaches the method for improving the charging criteria (abstract, page 1, lines 4-12, page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 12), the analyzing a member's call for tariff based on whether the subscriber is belonging to the group (abstract), for the member of the special group there is a different usage charging criteria associated with the member of the special group (page 5, lines 7-22). Janhonen fails to teach the assigning a shared usage allocation of an original magnitude to each of the groups that is available for usage by the group at a beginning of a predetermined period, the analyzing call data to allow a common tariff is applied for each subscriber in a group which a combined subscription is held when the shared usage allocation has been exhausted.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Chow whose telephone number is (703)-306-5615.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

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Edward Urban, can be reached at (703)-305-4385.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

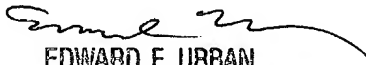
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,

Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Charles Chow C.C.

November 3, 2004.


EDWARD F. URBAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600